and other housing finance companies/organisations do not give loans to homeless pensioners for construction of houses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Among the institutions advancing loans for construction of houses, the institutions extending the facility to individuals are guided by the principle of repaying capacity and stable income throughout life. The facility is available to pensioners upto the age of sixty-five.

Subsidy to Shipyards

6987. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the subsidy being given to the shipyards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) A proposal to enhance the ship building subsidy payable to public sector shipyards from the existing 30% of International Parity Price (IPP) to 40% of IPP is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen in Kerala

6988. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ex-servicemen in Kerala and the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation and welfare;

(b) whether any complaints from ex-servicemen regarding pension etc. have been received by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETRULEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR)(a) to (c) As per the information received from the Government of Kerala, the approximate number of ex-Servicemen in Kerala is 3.5 lakhs.

There is a comprehensive package of resettlement and welfare measures for the ex-Servicemen. The Central Government has provided reservation for ex-Servicemen in Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts in the Central Government Departments as well as Public Sector Undertakings, including the Nationalised Banks. Defence Services personnel who have been disabled in war or in peace-time, and whose disability is attributable to military service, are accorded Priority-I, while upto two dependants of Defence Services personnel killed in service or severely disabled (with over 5% disability and who have become unfit for employment but disability is attributable to military service), whether during war or peace-time, are given priority immediately below the disabled ex-Servicemen, i.e. Priority-II (a). Besides, a number of schemes are in existence to provide self-employment opportunities to ex-Servicemen. These include the SEMFEX-I Scheme which provides financial assistance to ex-Servicemen for setting small industrial projects, the SEMFEX-II scheme to encourage ex-Servicemen to take up gainful farm and non-farm activities in rural areas; allotment